Amsterdam
The city is smaller than I expected but very beautiful. I like the cozy atmosphere and old buildings in the center.

Self-study
In general, I spend less time attending lectures and more time working at home on assignments and essays. These assignments can take a lot of time, but I think I learn more this way than by only attending lectures. Plus the self-study hours make it easy to choose a new study spot each week and visit a lot of different cafés.

New cultural awareness
I didn’t know much about Dutch culture before coming to Amsterdam. In fact, I actually didn’t know much about Europe, since all I really knew was what I heard from people and the media. Being exposed to many different cultures and noticing differences and similarities which I didn’t expect is one of the best parts about studying abroad.

Dutch quirks
I find Dutch politics, especially popular support for the monarchy, very interesting. Some noticeable differences are the frankness of the people and the fact that they always start events and meetings right on time, not even 2 minutes late!